As administration of justice is primarily a State subject, operation of the courts and the time of their sitting is a matter for the State Governments to decide in consultation with their respective High Courts. In view of this, and also since there is no scheme for giving central assistance in this regard no funds have been allocated to the State Governments for establishing evening/morning courts.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary is already under implementation by the Government since 1993-94. The scheme includes construction of court buildings and residential accommodation for judges/judicial officers covering High Courts and Subordinate Courts. The Planning Commission subsequently reviewed this scheme in 2004 and decided that a target driven Action Plan be drawn for optimum utilization of the Plan funds. Accordingly, with a view to optimally use the Plan funds, the Central Government, on the basis of information furnished by the States/Union Territories has prepared a Ten Year Perspective Plan for the construction of 5960 court buildings and 9163 residential accommodation for judges in the various States/Union Territories at an estimated total cost of Rs. 4025 crore. On the basis of this Perspective Plan a proposal for implementing the scheme in the Eleventh Plan period (2007-08 to 2011-12) at a total cost of Rs. 3000 crore with an outlay of Rs. 1550 crore as the central share of assistance (on a 50:50 basis) has been made to the Planning Commission. An amount of Rs. 65 crore has been provided in the Budget Estimates 2007-08.

Central assistance for Tribal Sub-Plan

*446. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Special Central Assistance for the Tribal Sub-Plan has been extended to States by the Centre as a 100 per cent grant to fill critical gaps and missing inputs for family-oriented income generating schemes;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) As per guidelines issued by the Planning Commission, States where the tribal population is less than 50% of the total population of the State, are to prepare a Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) as part of the Annual Plan of the State and provide funds at least in proportion to the ST population of the State. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing assistance under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) to such TSP States as an additive to the State's Plan. The SCA to TSP, which was originally meant for filling the critical gaps in family-based income-generation activities, has been expanded to cover employment-cum-income generation activities and the infrastructure incidental thereto, not only family-based but also run by Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/ the community.

(b) and (c) The guidelines for release and utilization of funds under SCA to TSP were issued in 2003. The salient features of the guidelines are as follows:

(i) The tribal population living below the poverty line, alone, is to be covered under the programme.

(ii) Since this scheme is for providing employment-cum-income generation activities, not more than 30% of SCA is permitted for the purpose of developing infrastructure.

(iii) Every effort is to be made for convergence of services/resources, manpower and infrastructure available under tribal related sectors.

(iv) Priority is to be given to tribals living in forest villages.

(v) Innovative projects based on needs of local tribals are to be given priority.

(vi) Schemes funded under SCA to TSP have to be supplementary to schemes taken up out of TSP funds of the State.

(vii) At least 30% of the funds are to be spent for women beneficiaries.

(viii) Adherence to the provisions of the Panchayati Raj Act, 1992 and Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 is to be ensured.

(ix) SCA should form an integral part of TSP for annual plans/five year plans of the State.

(x) 10% of the fund allocated for the financial year is to be utilized for the purpose of extending incentives to States for effective implementation of TSP.

Wage restructuring of Mini-Anganwadi Centres

*447. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers and helpers of 36,829 Mini-Anganwadi Centres are paid less than employees in any other Anganwadi Centre;

(b) the total amount involved in this differential wage structure from the Central Government allocation; and

(c) whether Government plan to upgrade the status of Mini-Anganwadi Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) As distinct from regular Anganwadi Centre (AWC), Mini-AWC is set-up in habitation/settlement having population of 150-500 in rural areas and 150-300 in tribal/riverine/desert, hilly and other difficult areas. The honorarium paid to Anganwadi Worker engaged in Mini-Anganwadi Centre is Rs. 500/- p.m. whereas it is, on an average, Rs. 1000/- per month, in case of Anganwadi Worker in a regular Anganwadi Centre. The total amount of money involved in this differential honorarium structure for 36829 sanctioned Mini-Anganwadi Centres works out to about Rs. 22 crore per annum.

(c) Till recently only one of the six services *i.e.* Supplementary Nutrition was being provided through Mini-Anganwadi Centres. However, now all the six services under ICDS Scheme are being provided from Mini-Anganwadi Centres also.